

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 7, 15, and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 3-6, 8-11, 13-14, and 17-20 have been amended. Claims 21 and 22 are added. No new matter is introduced.

In the Office Action mailed, claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7, and 9-10, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura (US 6,435,869) taken with Kobayashi et al. (US 6,200,432). Claims 6, 11, 15-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura (US 6,435,869) taken with Kobayashi et al. (US 6,200,432) as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7, 9-10, and 12, 14, and further of Suzuki (2004/0009644). Claims 7, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waugh (US 4,802,441) taken with Kobayashi et al. (US 6,200,432).

The Examiner also indicated that claims 3, 8, 13, and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 3, 8, 13, and 17 are amended and written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 3, 8, 13, and 17 should be allowed. Corresponding dependent claims 4-6 and 21, 9-11, 14, 18-20 and additional features therein which respectively dependent from claims 3, 8, 13, and 17, should also be allowed based on a similar rationale and others. Newly added claims 21 and 22 which respectively dependent from claim 3 and claim 17 should also be allowed for similar reason and others. Accordingly, all claims should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No.: 10/773,517
Amdt. dated: January 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action of: October 5, 2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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